

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5548

To authorize assistance for women and girls in Iraq, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 7, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY (for herself, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mrs. MCCARTHY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To authorize assistance for women and girls in Iraq, and
for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Empowerment of Iraqi
5 Women Act of 2006”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The Saddam Hussein regime committed
9 human rights atrocities against the citizens of Iraq.

1 (2) In the past, women in Iraq played impor-
2 tant roles in public and private industries, including
3 the government.

4 (3) Iraqi women currently are serving in the
5 National Assembly, government ministries, and local
6 governments.

7 (4) The reconstruction of Iraq and the writing
8 of the permanent Iraqi Constitution provide a
9 unique opportunity to continue this success and to
10 affirm women’s human rights under law.

11 (5) For women to fully participate in Iraqi soci-
12 ety, they must have the guaranteed right to vote, the
13 guaranteed right to run for office, guaranteed equal-
14 ity of opportunity, guaranteed equality in family law,
15 guaranteed equal access to the civil courts, protec-
16 tion from gender-motivated violence, and guaranteed
17 access to health care, education, and employment.

18 (6) The United States, through its involvement
19 in Iraq, must be actively working toward guaran-
20 teeing the full inclusion and participation of Iraqi
21 women in the political and economic life of their
22 country, and must continue to do so throughout the
23 reconstruction process.

24 (7) The United States must be actively working
25 to ensure that the lives of Iraqi women are made

1 better, not worse, because of United States interven-
2 tion.

3 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF IRAQI WOMEN'S FUND.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator of the
5 United States Agency for International Development shall
6 establish a fund for the purpose of assisting women and
7 girls in Iraq in the areas of political, legal, and human
8 rights, health care, education, training, security, and shel-
9 ter.

10 (b) ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.—The fund established
11 under subsection (a) shall support the following activities:

12 (1) Direct financial and programmatic assist-
13 ance to the Iraq Ministry of Women's Affairs (here-
14 after in this section referred to as the "Ministry")
15 to promote the strengthening of the Ministry as the
16 Government of Iraq continues its transition to a
17 long-term government structure. The Ministry may
18 use such assistance to support activities such as the
19 following:

20 (A) Multiyear women-centered economic
21 development programs, including programs to
22 assist widows, female heads of household,
23 women in rural areas, and disabled women.

24 (B) Collaboration with the Iraq Ministry of
25 Health to construct health infrastructure and

1 delivery of high-quality comprehensive health
2 care programs, including primary, maternal,
3 child, reproductive, and mental health care.

4 (C) Programs to prevent trafficking in per-
5 sons, assist victims, and apprehend and pros-
6 ecute traffickers in persons.

7 (D) Programs to prevent gender-motivated
8 violence targeted at women, including domestic
9 violence.

10 (2) Collaboration with the Iraq Ministry of
11 Education to construct women's educational facili-
12 ties in Iraq and promote the education of Iraqi girls
13 beyond primary school.

14 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date
15 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the
16 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
17 national Development shall prepare and submit to Con-
18 gress a report that contains documentation of activities
19 of the United States Agency for International Develop-
20 ment, the Iraq Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Iraq Min-
21 istry of Health, and the Iraq Ministry of Education to im-
22 plement the requirements of this section.

23 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
24 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
25 \$22,500,000 for each of the fiscal years 2007, 2008, and

1 2009 and such sums as are necessary for each subsequent
2 fiscal year.

3 **SEC. 4. ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ.**

4 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not less
5 than 15 percent of the aggregate amount of economic and
6 humanitarian assistance authorized to be made available
7 to Iraq for each of the fiscal years 2007, 2008, and 2009
8 shall be made available for assistance directly to Iraqi-led
9 local nongovernmental organizations, including not less
10 than 5 percent of that 15 percent for Iraqi women-led or-
11 ganizations, with demonstrated experience in delivering
12 services to Iraqi women and children to support their pro-
13 grammatic activities and organizational development. In
14 recognition of the appreciating capacity of Iraqi-led local
15 nongovernmental organizations, including Iraqi women-led
16 organizations, an appropriate percentage of the aggregate
17 amount of economic and humanitarian assistance author-
18 ized to be made available to Iraq for fiscal year 2010 and
19 each subsequent fiscal year shall be made available for as-
20 sistance directly to Iraqi-led local nongovernmental organi-
21 zations, including Iraqi women-led organizations.

22 **SEC. 5. REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO UNITED STATES AC-**
23 **TIVITIES IN IRAQ.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Activities described in subsections
25 (b) through (d) that are carried out by the United States

1 in Iraq shall comply with the applicable requirements con-
2 tained in such subsections.

3 (b) GOVERNANCE OF IRAQ.—With respect to the gov-
4 ernance of Iraq, the applicable requirements are the fol-
5 lowing:

6 (1) Include the perspectives and advice of Iraqi
7 women’s organizations, networks, and leaders in
8 United States policymaking related to the govern-
9 ance of Iraq.

10 (2) Promote the achievement of 25 percent of
11 the seats in the National Assembly to be held by
12 Iraqi women to ensure that women’s full range of
13 human rights are included and upheld in any con-
14 stitution or legal structures of Iraq.

15 (3) Encourage the appointment of women to
16 high level positions within Iraqi Ministries.

17 (c) POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVEL-
18 OPMENT.—With respect to activities relating to post-con-
19 flict stability in Iraq, the applicable requirements are the
20 following:

21 (1) Encourage United States organizations that
22 receive funds authorized by this Act to partner with
23 or create Iraqi-led counterpart organizations and
24 provide these organizations with significant financial

1 resources, technical assistance, and capacity build-
2 ing.

3 (2) Increase women's access to or ownership of
4 productive assets such as land, water, agricultural
5 inputs, credit, and property.

6 (3) Provide long-term financial assistance for
7 primary, secondary, higher, nontraditional, and voca-
8 tional education for Iraqi girls, women, boys, and
9 men.

10 (4) Integrate education and training programs
11 for former combatants with economic development
12 programs to encourage their reintegration into soci-
13 ety and to promote post-conflict stability.

14 (d) IRAQI MILITARY AND POLICE.—With respect to
15 training for military and police forces in Iraq, the applica-
16 ble requirements are the following:

17 (1) Include training on the protection, rights,
18 and the particular needs of women and emphasize
19 that violations of women's rights are intolerable and
20 should be prosecuted.

21 (2) Encourage such trainers who will carry out
22 the activities in paragraph (1) to consult with wom-
23 en's organizations in Iraq to ensure that training
24 content and materials are adequate, appropriate,
25 and comprehensive.

1 **SEC. 6. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

2 Not later than 60 days after the date of the enact-
3 ment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the President
4 shall prepare and transmit to Congress a report that con-
5 tains documentation of activities of the United States to
6 guarantee the rights of Iraqi women, including progress
7 in implementing the requirements of section 5 and on the
8 status of women's rights in Iraq. All data in the report
9 shall be disaggregated by gender.

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